



PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Lee**

Art Unit: **3643**

Serial No: **10/618,523**

Confirmation No.: 9107

Filed: **July 11, 2003**

Docket No.: **62004-1621**

For: **Automated Feet-Gripping System**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In regard to the above-referenced application, Applicant submits the following preliminary amendment to be respectively entered prior to examination.

Please amend page 1, lines 9 through 19, in the section "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION," by deleting the stricken text ("---") and inserting the underlined text ("___").

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation-in-part (CIP) of U.S. patent application serial number 09/748,656, issued as U.S. patent number 6,623,346, which claims priority to four copending U.S. provisional applications all entitled, "Method of Mechanical Transferring Live Broilers from Moving Conveyor to Shackle," having serial numbers 60/171,990, filed December 23, 1999; 60/177,576, filed January 22, 2000; 60/197,362, filed April 15, 2000; and 60/252,987, filed November ~~2223~~, 2000.

This application also claims priority to U.S. provisional patent application entitled, "Automated Feet-Gripping System," having Express Mail mailing number EV 202413892 US, filed February 4, 2003, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the below-listed are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

on March 4, 2004.

H. Ch. Barnhill
Hui Chin Barnhill

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The following is a list of documents enclosed:

Return Postcard
Preliminary Amendment

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney for Applicant

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Date: _____
Customer No.: 24504
Docket: **62004-1621**